ELECTRIC POWER PLANT WRECKED

Explosion in Charlottesville Causes Damage Amounting to \$15,000.

IS WITHOUT LIGHTS

Engineer Only Person Hurt, and His Injuries Are Slight.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Charlottesville, Va., February 14.—
The electric power plant of the Charlottesville and Albemarle Railway Company was partly wrecked this afternoon by an explosion, causing a loss of \$15,000, leaving the city streets and many of the business houses and residences in darkness, and interrupting many industries dependent upon electricity as a motive power. The electricity as a motive power. The electric cars are at a standstill.

It is said that the governor belt on the new 590-horse power engine jumped or was in some way thrown from its position. Steam poured into the cylinder of the engine, and the two ten-ton flywheels ran away, were shattered by an explosion or otherwise, wrecking that part of the building which housed the machinery, and filling the air with

the machinery, and filling the air with fragments which rained down, some of them at distances of hundreds of feet. The miracle of the happening is

feet. The miracle of the happening is that none of these fragments injured anybody, although some of them, weighing 309 and 409 pounds, fell in nearby yards and sank almost out of sight in the hard earth.

A small brick tenement, 200 feet from the plant, was wrecked. One wall was torn out by a heavy fragment of iron, while another, descending on the roof, tore its way through three stories into the basement, where it burrowed in the carth. No one was injured, although the wife of the occupant was standing by a stove, which was wrecked.

In the electric plant J. Pierce Purvis, who said his name was Dan Mahoney.

Only person

wrecked.

In the electric plant J. Pierce Purvis, chief engineer, was the only person hurt, and his injuries are thought to be slight. When things began to go wrong, he ran to shut off the engine, but suffered in the explosion that followed

This company lights the city, runs the electric street cars and furnishes current for many private homes and a

SWELL RIDE FOR DANNY MAHONEY

Tried to Panhandle Major Werner, Who Whirled Him Quickly to Lockup.

"Say, bo, I'm down and out; can't you slip me a' dime?"
This remark was addressed to Detective Krengel yesterday afternoon by a shabby-looking individual as the former was talking to Chief of Police Werner, who was not in uniform, on the Eleventh Street side of the City Hall.

to that effect. We challenge investigation.

Bagby is Medical Director.



BUY NOBBIES NEXT TIME

Without question, the most famous, most effective and most widely used non-skid tires ever offered to motorists. Safe and durable.

Made in clincher, quick detachable and genuine Dunlop styles.

Early Arrest Expected, Following Dynamiting of Mrs. Jones's Home.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Lynchburg, Va., February 14.—
While no arrest has been made for
the dynamiting of the home of Mrs.
George M. Jones, which occurred early
Wednesday morning, the police are
very actively at work on the case,
but it is not expected that there will
be any developments for publication
for a day or two, at least.

It is believed the offer of a reward
of \$500 for a conviction will result
in a number of private detectives
working on the case. The local police, however, say they are satisfied
with their developments up to date,
and they believe, while they know
they have a hard case before them,
that they will eventually be able to
bring about a conviction.

The dynamiting is still the talk of
the city, and everybody wants to see
the matter cleared up as rapidly as
possible. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Morphine and Whiskey Habit

The Dr. H. L. DeVine Sanitarium

Company, Inc.

CHESTNUT HILL, RICHMOND, VA.

A guaranteed cure for all drug and liquor addictions, and all

Our Sanitarium is modern in every particular, quite secluded in the beautiful suburb of Highland Park. 'Ten minutes' ride from

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when the telephone bell rings and

you have "turned in" for the night?

Do you step across the room and

complaisantly answer its call, or

The cost is small, the convenience great - Call the Business Office.

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An Extension Telephone -

do you wearily trot downstairs?

Why not order one today?

OF VIRGINIA.

709 East Grace Street. R

nerve and mental diseases that originate from the excessive use of same. Our proposition is "No cure, no pay." We sign contract

ARM AGENT WILL WORK IN HENRICO

Richmond Business Men Pay Salary to Increase Yield of County Lands.

Through the efforts of a committee of the Business Men's Club, a sufficient amount has been subscribed in Richmond for the employment of a farm demonstration agent for work in Henrico County. The Bureau of Plant In-dustry in Washington and the United Agricultural Board of Virginia will duplicate the amount secured in this

The Richmond subscribers realized The Richmond subscribers realized that with an agent at work in the county, yields of farms will largely increase, resulting in corresponding benefits to the trade of the city. Many local people are also directly interested as owners of farms, which pay but little or are operated at a loss. Their managers, on consultation with the agent, will be enabled to increase their yields.

Chief Agent T. O. Sandy, who was here yesterday, said that the Richmond agent has practically been selected, though he is not yet ready to announce the name. He is now in the South, and will in a few days go to Blacksburg to join the agents now studying there in the State Agricultural and Mechanical College. When the course has been completed, he will come to Richmond ready for work.

Mr. Sandy is convinced that the agricultural course being received by the agents at Blacksburg is about the best thing ever done for this State. Every thing ever done for this State. Every man of his force is taking the keenest interest in the instruction, learning something new every day, and absorbing enthusiasm along with information. He expects them to be more valuable advance agents of prosperity than ever

STATE TAX LAWS

missioner of the Revenue on February
1, 1912, carefully examining thousands
of the returns. It has summoned and
examined a large number of witnesses
and has had before it a great many
persons whose returns were thought to
be inaccurate or who the jury thought
could shed light on the assessments
under consideration. The jury has returned no indictments, because they
have found the inadequate returns
which have been made were often the
result of a failure to understand the
vague and badly constructed tax laws
of the State; but we are of the opinion
that the Standard Oil Company of New
Jersey, Armour & Co. and Morris &
Co., successor to the National Packing
Company, of Chicago, who have repeatedly withheld information and professed ignorance of their own affairs
through their managers, are seeking
to evade their just taxes. We have
therefore instructed the Commonwealth's Attorney of Richmond to proceed against them according to law.
We have found a great amount of

wealth's Attorney of Richmond to pro-ceed against them according to law.

We have found a great amount of inequality in the taxation, due almost entirely to the tax system of the State, and this will be taken up further on in this report. The jury begs to re-port that they have added to the com-missioner's books the following amounts of taxable property, which have been turned over to the treasurer

the Eleventh Street side of the City Hall.

Hall.

"Nothing doing," replied Krengel.

The pan-handler then turned his attention to Major Werner. "I won't give you any money," said the chief, "but I will see that you are well cared for. First, I will give you a little auto ride. How does that strike you." He asked with a wave of his hand towards his machine, which was standing at the curb.

"Fine," enthusiastically replied the shabby individual.

"Then hop in."

Without any instructions from Major Werner, Officer Palmer, detailed as chauffeur, speeded up the car and went down Broad Street to the First Police Station at Eighteenth.

Without any hesitancy the man acconviction. The dynamiting is still the talk of the city, and everybody wants to see that you are well cared up as rapidly as possible.

Mone's Case Continued.

The dynamiting is still the talk of the city, and everybody wants to see the clared up as rapidly as possible.

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Mone's Case Continued.

The dynamiting is still the talk of the charge of matter the allow of the charge of the matter cleared up as rapidly as possible.

Mone's Case Continued.

The hearing of Nackley Moses, the charge of failing to provide for his wife, was continued yeserday morning in Police Court until Sebragary 26. Pending the trial an effort will be made, it is understoned.

Appeals I'rom \$100 Fine.

George Spruel, colored, who was arrested several days ago by Motorcycle of the station, and not until he faced by law was fined \$100 and costs yes the charge of driving an automobile faster than allowed by law was fined \$100 and costs yes the charge of the fact that our statement possible for business men to give the time required for so great a work unless they entirely neglected their own affairs. We believe that there are still many people in this community who are yet avoiding their just proportion of taxation, but it was impossible for the jury to correct all the assessments at one session.

The city of Richmond, before the above assessments were laid, was already paying 25 per cent of the party.

above assessments were laid, was already paying 25 per cent of the net revenue of the whole State, and the additions made by this jury correspondingly increase this proportion. In other words, the capital city, with 6 per cent of the population of the State, pays more than 25 per cent of the put State. State, pays more than 25 per cent of the net State revenue.

We feel that this grand jury, having carnestly and conscientiously endeav-ored to do its sworn duty in trying to bring to light all the hidden taxable values possible, that the following sug-gestions as to changes in the laws are entitled to a just and serious consider-

ation by those whose business it is to make our tax laws.

Tax Laws lundequate. the beautiful suburb of Highland Park. Ten minutes' ride from heart of Richmond. Write us for information. Address No. 200 State vague in their meaning and in some parts apparently impossible of intelligent construction. The successions of the succession of the su

Intelligent construction. The successive Legislatures seem to have created at random new subjects for taxation, giving little thought to any business-like assessment or collection of taxes on those subjects already created.

The personal property interrogatory appears filled with numbers of inconsiderable subjects of taxation which would seemingly be better left out. These things produce little or no revenue and serve to bolittle and cloud nue and serve to belittle and cloud the main' intent of the interrogatory. Among them might be mentioned books and pictures, tools and me-chanics, watches, clocks, melodeons, harps, shot guns, rifles, muskets, bowle knives dirks, sewing machines and knives, dirks, sewing machines and numbers of such other articles too numerous to mention.

The tax on bonds and mortgages and

The tax on bonds and mortgages and other evidences of debt is often double taxation, pure and simple, and should be abolished. It is unjust and invites deception. We believe that not over 10 per cent of this property is found or ever will be found except from trust and court funds. This tax falls principally on widows and orphans and other defenseless persons. It destroys the market for bonds in the State and sends money out of the State for investment in securities. It serves as an excuse to keep the interest rate up on farm mortgages and other secured loans, and as a rule the notes are hidden from the commissioners or sent

on farm mortgages and other secured loans, and as a rule the notes are hidden from the commissioners or sent out of the State to evade the tax.

Abolished Elsewhere.

This law serves as a hardship on the borrower and brings little revenue to the State. It has long ago been abolished in those States known as progressive. In the place of this tax we would recommend the recording tax law and secured debt law of New York and other States which lay on mortgages a tax of one-half of 1, per cent of the face of the mortgage, collected by the clerk of the court, when the mortgage or other transaction is recorded, and no further tax ever to be collected. These laws appear to be clear, concise, automatic in operation and apparently almost impossible of evasion. They would undoubtedly bring to life enormous quantities of intangible personal property not now found, and at the same time lower the inter-

The

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appearance the WESER

will give lasting satis-

R Piano

Solo Representatives in

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Oldest Music House in Virginia and North Carolina.

est rates on loans and tend to keep our money at home. They have been im-mense revenue producers in the States which have adopted them and have which have adopted them and have produced in some States more revenue than those States had gotten before from all their tangible and intangible personality put together, and at the same time were a great benefit to the people, in country and city alike.

The tax on moneys on deposit in banks we think should be limited in some way so as not to include mere

some way so as not to include mere running accounts of individual depositors. Exemption should be made of money in savings banks on interest. Savings banks are vital factors in building up the communities. They are the only means of keeping safe the small accummulations of the people and returning the moneys promptly into commercial channels. The deposits are often the sole wealth of poor, deserving, hardworking and saving people. To take from such meanly more lie. To take from such meanly more lie. ple. To take from such people more than one-half of the total earning power of their capital is wrong. Capital Considered.

The term "capital in business" as applied by the State to manufactur-ers, joint stock companies, etc. (other than merchants), has given the jury than merchants), has given the jury more serious consideration than any other taxable subject. This jury could not accept as a fatr definition of capital in business for taxation purposes "book accounts considered good"; "plus bills receivable"; "plus all merchandise on hand"; "plus real estate (separately taxed)" without deducting the live liabilities (borrowed money and merchandise owed for). For it is a well known fact that in every is a well known fact that in every community a large part of the busi-ness done by many firms is on money borrowed from the banks and mer-chandise owed for to merchants and manufacturers.

If the merchants, manufacturers and farmers of this State are required to pay taxes, not only on their own capi-tal (which is what they have less what they owe), but on berrowed money (which is used with the real capital in book accounts and merchandise), then in our opinion the progressive communities of this State would in a few years lose their best enterprises.

Rheumatism

Try Sloan's Liniment for your rheumatism-don't rub-just lay it on lightly. It goes straight to the sore spot, quickens the blood, limbers up the muscles and joints and stops the pain.

SLOAN'S

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in the mercantile and manufacturing industries here, and these millions (besides the real capital taxed) are to the part of the money, and if taxed as capital of the borrowers, would not cally destroy the real assets of those borrowing the money, and if taxed as capital of the borrowers, would not cally destroy the strengths.

capital of the borrowers, would not only destroy the struggling industries, but many successful ones.

No industry would locate in a community which not only taxed the plant and machinery as per assessments (which is just) and which taxed all real capital—that is, cash in busines—(which is just), but in addition required the industry to pay a tax on the money they borrowed in order to carry the extra credits on their books and to pay for labor, materials, etc., in the course of business.

Double Taxation.

If we suppose that the industrial establishments of this State are made to give in their just taxes in the form

to give in their just taxes in the form of assessments of plant and machinery and actual cash owned by them over and above their liabilities to banks and and above their liabilities to banks and other merchants and manufacturers, then the necessary money borrowed by them from the banks belongs to the banks, either as capital or surplus, which is taxed, or to the bank depositors as balances. These depositors balances on hand February 1 are also supposed to be taxed, consequently all money borrowed by the taxable industries from banks, etc., in the State is taxed before it reaches the industry.

The jury has placed a common sense construction on this statute, and have taxed only unimpaired capital in business, and still found large amounts of actual, net capital untaxed, as the citizen, in putting his own construction on an incomprehensible law, naturally construes it in his own favor.

Needs New Definition.

In fact, to accept the definition of "capital in business" heretofore mentioned as the proper and legal one, would, in our opinion, mean the indictment of practically all business menthroughout Virginia who borrow money for the conduct of its industries, and also for investments in taxable securities. Capital in business (for taxation) should mean "the balence of taxation) should mean "the balence of taxation) should mean "the balence of taxation is the securities of the securities other merchants and manufacturers.

ties. Capital in business (for taxation) should mean "the balance of taxable assets over and above just debts and the exemptions allowed by law."

If this definition or some other equally as clear and equitable were written in the law these could be seen to be a superior of the country of t written in the law there could be no well founded "ignorance" of the law's meaning—and the law being founded in equity and justice there could not exist the excuse, we find so widely prevalent, that the present laws being seemingly intent on double and triple taxation of business, evasion was not only pardonable, but necessary to self preservation.

preservation.

The State should provide a special form for "manufacturers" and a special form for "merchants," showing clearly, like the United States excise tax return, just what was to be considered as "gross assets" and "gross purchases," and giving the specific legal deductions and "just debts," showing clearly the balance for taxation as net capital or net purchases. ation as net capital or net purchases, as the case might be. Such forms would be made out and sworn to by would be made out and sworn to by the proper officers of the corporation or the partners in a general partner-ship. Such forms, if clear and spe-cific, would leave no excuse for "ig-norance," and if founded on a just law would not tempt evasion. They could be readily detected, if in error, or verified from the books of the com-panies reporting. At present, however, there does not seem to be any deducso that under the present law such forms would be valueless. We do not see how the State can expect to exact a uniform tax when she appears to be trying to adapt eighteenth century laws to twentieth century business conditions.

The methods of assessing and col-

ecting the taxes by the State seem thoroughly unbusiness-like and cum-The jury ventures to suggest

The jury ventures to suggest some remedies, among them that the commissioners of the revenue be given power beyond simply "accepting" or "refusing" a return. Better still, that the State select certain specific subjects for taxation, raising from them what revenue she requires, and leaving the remaining subjects for local purposes.

We might suggest a tax commission to see that the returns were equalized, but we are emphatic in stating that we believe a tax commission, turned loose on the people of Virginia, with authority to enforce the antiquated, present tax laws of this State, with a strict construction of the present laws as to "capital," "credit," "moneys," "bonds," "loans" and other intangible personal property, would be the worst calamity nothing that would be more disastrous to our people than a commission charged with literally enforcing the present tax laws of the State in their strictest construction and supposed meaning. There is no doubt, from what we have seen, that with the present tax rate the State could greatly increase her revenue by placing the most liberal construction on her term of "capital" and equalizing her assessments on real estate and tangible personalty, were she to make any sort of impartial and systematic attempt to go behind the returns, but until she establishes some reasonable and some sensible standard of taxation she should not attempt it, unless she desires a condition of industrial chaos.

The local jury system of examining

The local jury system of examining tax returns means only that communities who are intent on evading the law will continue to do so, and communities which are conscientious in the discharge of their duty will bear an unjust proportion of the burden, and if the cry for tax reform in the State rejust proportion of the burden, and if the cry for tax reform in the State re-mains unheeded by deaf or indifferent representatives, and if our State offi-cials neglect or refuse to compel the relief so badly needed, we can see no alternative but that such communities as are now honestly trying to do their duty might plausibly consider them-selves justified in failing to investiselves justified in failing to investi-gate State taxes in the future, unless such communities wish to assume prac-tically the whole burden of the State's

The jury wishes to thank Henry E. Tresnon, Commissioner of the Revenue of the city of Richmond, for the careful, painstaking work we have placed upon him. We have found him an unusually capable and efficient officer, and upon him. We have found him an unusually capable and efficient officer, and his administration of his office appears to be beyond criticism. His thorough familiarity with the duties of his position has impressed the jury with the idea that he is an invaluable public officer. The office of Commissioner of the Revenue is no pleasant one. The commissioner is accountable to the State for correct returns for taxation and is given by the State no legal power to enforce a correct system. In no sense, were the corrections made by this jury in the remotest degree caused by any dereliction of duty or laxity on the part of the commissioner. If the State loses in revenue, she has only the Legislature to thank for their failure to give her workable, businesslike laws and for their failure to give her commissioners any real authority. We wish to thank the judge and officers of the Hustings Court of the city of Richmond for their uniform courtesy, and also thank James R. Sheppard and T. L. Blanton, who were members of the jury and who at their own request were excused by the court, after giving long and valuable service.

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ther consideration of this matter. Respectfully submitted, CHARLES F. TAYLOR,

GRANVILLE G. VALENTINE,
JAMES F. RYLAND,
MORTON B. ROSENBAUM,
JOHN W. HARRISON,
FRITZ SITTERDING,
B. P. VADEN,
BLAIR BOLLING,

FRED H. GARBER. Thanked by Court.

on the people of Virginia, with authority to enforce the antiquated, present tax laws of this State, with a strict construction of the present laws as to "capital," "credit," "moneys," "bonds," "loans" and other intangible personal property, would be the worst calamity that could befall the State. While it would give the State or a little time immensely increased revenues at its present tax rate, it would eventually drive away or bankrupt half its industrial enterprises. We can conceive of nothing that would be more disastrous to our people than a commission charged with literally enforcing the present tax that our people than a commission charged with literally enforcing the present tax that the State of the court.

In discharging the jury Judge Richardson said: "Nearly four months ago I impaneled you and directed that you have subject that tax returns, especially requesting that your duty be discharged faithfully and fully, and not in a perfunctory manner. You have discharged to you to the satisfaction of the court, and, I think, to the satisfaction of the people of this community. You have acted wisely and conservatively, and I thank you for the valuable suggestions which you have made. I feel that the facts which you have so clearly presented.

Cord of the court.

In discharging the jury Judge Richardson ago: "Nearly four months ago I impaneled you and directed that you asphale the tax returns, especially requesting that your duty be discharged faithfully and fully, and not in a perfunctory manner. You have discharged the tax returns, especially requesting that your duty be discharged faithfully and fully, and not in a perfunctory manner. You have discharged the tax returns, especially requesting that your duty be discharged from the tax returns, especially requesting that your duty be discharged.

Mrs. J. N. Spenger, in whose home archering Thursday night.

Mrs. J. N. Spenger, in whose home archering Thursday night.

Mrs. J. N. Spenger, in thas perfured the tax returns, especially required the aty you have which you have so clearly presented must make an impression on the law-making authorities of this State. I thank you for the long and painstak-ing and almost daily attention you have given to your study of this matter, and you are discharged from fur-

(Continued From First Page)

and Mexican borders, would result from the law, said the secretary, and it would cost probably \$1,000,000 in ex-cess of existing appropriations to ad-minister the law.

The other provisions of the law, the secretary declared were excellent or

secretary declared, were excellent or in no respects really objectionable.

ability, we now pray the honorable court that we be discharged from fur-

Stranger Found Dead in Boarding House After Owner Had Detected Odor of Gas.

Charles C. Archer, about twenty-The report of the grand jury was read to the court by Foreman Charles F. Taylor, and was ordered by Judge Richardson to be spread upon the record of the court.

eight years old, whose home is said to be in Massachusetts, and who came to Richardson to be spread upon the record of the court. asphyxiation. It is though that he accidentally turned on a gas jet before retiring Thursday night.

to gain an entrance. The man was dead in bcd. Coroner Taylor was summoned. Af-

Coroner Taylor was summoned. After viewing the body he said Archer
had been dead for hours, exactly how
long he could not tell. He did not
believe it was a case of suicide, but
expressed the opinion that Archer, after turning out his light, had hit one
of the switches and allowed the gas to
leak, causing death after he had gone
to sleep.

Practically nothing is known of

to sleep.

Practically nothing is known of Archer in Richmond. The body was turned over to an undertaker and will probably be held until it is claimed by relatives. Dr. Taylor said an inquest would not

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